

 **WILDERNESS**  
*Africa*  
FINEST PRIVATE GUIDED SAFARIS

## **BOTSWANA – DRY SEASON**

Botswana, the southern African country where the remarkable inland haven of water - the Okavango Delta, flows into the Kalahari sands. The game concentrations between the delta and the Chobe waterway to the north are probably the densest in southern Africa.



Despite being a relatively uniform and flat country, Botswana has an astounding variety of habitats and scenery in a relatively small area, including the Makgagadi pans, the wetter and drier parts of the delta (which vary throughout the year), and the Chobe waterway in the north. Water levels change throughout the year in the delta, being lowest at the onset of the rainy season in the summer months, and rising and reaching further south and deeper into the delta as the winter dry season progresses. That is also when herds of elephants move northwards across the Savute channel and to the Chobe and Linyanti river systems.

### **10 DAY ITINERARY – DRY SEASON JULY/OCTOBER**

*Days 1-3 Savuti Camp, Chobe Area*  
*Days 4-6 Jacana Camp, Okavango Delta*  
*Days 7-9 Duba Plains Camp, Okavango Delta*  
*Day 10 Last Day. Fly home or continue elsewhere*  
*(Makgadikgadi Pans, Victoria Falls, or Namibia).*

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

Perhaps watching a thirsty herd of elephants rush down to the waterhole to drink or listening to the eerie whoop of hyaenas while on a night drive at Savuti; tracking and following a mongoose as it forages for food, and then scanning the bush surrounding a herd of buffaloes at Duba Plains, hoping to spot a pride of lions about to begin an attack; learning about the flux of the flowing and ebbing water levels in the Okavango Delta and witnessing how that effects the behaviour of wildlife there, as they adapt to the changes; experiencing the difference between a wet and a dry area in the Delta; and sneaking up on nesting weaver birds in a makoro (canoe) at Jacana Camp.

### **DAYS 1-3 — FLY TO BOTSWANA, SAVUTI CAMP, LINYANTI RESERVE**

We take a scheduled flight from Maun to Savuti Camp where we spend the next three nights. Savuti Camp is situated in the Linyanti Reserve along the Savuti Channel in northern Botswana. The camp has a thatched dining area, bar and plunge pool, and seven tents, all on raised wooden decks. There is a waterhole close to camp which attracts large numbers of animals that guests can view from the camp.

The site of the camp is about 17 kilometres 'downstream' from the Zibadianja Lagoon - the source of the channel.

The channel stopped flowing between 1980 and 2008; during this time it was an unusual and productive ribbon of grassland that served as a corridor and feeding ground in the surrounding woodland for a wide variety of herbivores. In 2008, the Savute Channel once more became a deep, clear waterway harbouring hippo and aquatic life with myriad varieties of waterbirds. Wildlife, from plains game to a plethora of predators, has had to



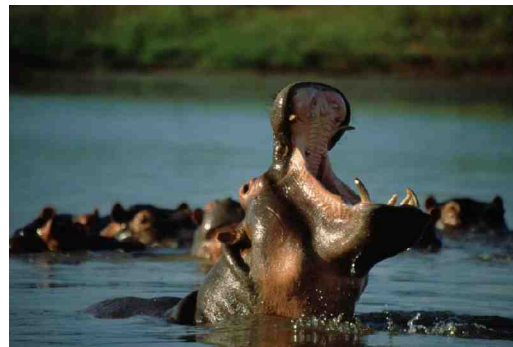
adapt to a new source of water and all the opportunities and menaces it has brought with it. For different species the channel has become a place of refuge, an obstacle, an unrivalled food source, a navigational aid, a larder, a playground, and a graveyard. It is impossible to say yet whether the waters will persist or begin to recede in earnest, as much of this will depend on the next summer rains - but while it lasts, at Savuti there are front-row seats for each drama that is played out.

Here we can game drive, night drive and go on walks with an armed guide. There are also hides from which to game view - including a woodpile hide located at the waterhole in front of the camp.

Game concentrations here are high, particularly in the winter dry season, and apart from abundant plains game - species such as roan and sable antelope, herds of elephants abound in the drier months, and large predators - lion, leopard, cheetah, black-backed jackal and wild dog may also be encountered. If we decide to go on a night drive we are likely to encounter spotted hyaenas warming up to their nights hunting activities, and perhaps see a genet hiding in an acacia. We might also be lucky enough to also encounter aardvark and aardwolf.

### **DAYS 4-6 — JACANA CAMP, OKAVANGO DELTA**

We fly to Jacana Camp in the Jao concession, bordering Moremi Game Reserve. The camp is located on a beautiful island, surrounded by seasonal floodplains and papyrus swamps, in the midst of the Okavango Delta. Jacana has five large classic safari tents, built on wooden decks, each with an en-suite enclosed, and roofless shower and loo, so we can enjoy the starlit skies at night while having a shower at the end of the days activities! The main dining room is also on a platform between two massive shady sycamore fig tress, and surrounded by wild date palms.



This is the perfect place to explore the surrounding swamps by mokoro (canoe) or on foot. There are two platform hides in the concession, where we can relax and watch the birdlife - marsh harriers quartering the swamps, or perhaps black egret luring fish to their shade. In these swamps we might be lucky enough to spot a Pel's fishing-owl, and are likely to see African and lesser jacanas walking on the lilies. This dense wetland area is ideal for herds of Cape buffalo, groups of red lechwe and even the sitatunga – an antelope superbly adapted to swamps. On the islands we might follow tracks of a leopard to a resting spot in the shade of a waterberry, or we might search for lion in an area where we heard their roars at dawn. Wildlife concentrations depend on the water flow and volume and thus change from season to season. What is really special about this area is its wetland habitat and abundance of birdlife. When the floodwaters have receded - generally between September and May, we can also go for game drives.

#### **DAYS 7-9 — DUBA PLAINS CAMP, OKAVANGO DELTA**

We have a short flight to Duba Plains, which is on the northern edge of the Okavango Delta. The camp is on an “island” surrounded by seasonal floodplains. It has six spacious tents, a lounge, dining-room and bar overlooking the surrounding floodplain.

From here we may game drive along the edge of the plains dotted by wildebeest and tsessebe, and most likely also encounter herds of elephant feeding in the islands of palms. Large herds of Cape buffalo, given away by flocks of attendant cattle egrets above them, are found in the taller grasses and along the edge of the swamps. Red lechwe are common in even wetter areas, where hippo have their channels leading from the grasslands back to their favourite pools. The area is known for its daring prides of lions who often hunt buffalo. Scenes of buffaloes defending their young from lion attack, while the lions persistently search for a weaker individual at the edge of the herd, ignoring the threat of a charge, are not uncommon.



A variety of activities include day and night game drives and leisurely nature walks. Mokoro trips in the swamps are sometimes possible in times of good floods - usually only between May and September.



#### **DAY 10 — LAST DAY. DEPART OR MOVE ON TO NEXT ADVENTURE!**

We fly back to Maun and home or onward to our next destination.

**End of *Wilderness Africa* services**

***Wilderness Africa* \* Finest Private Guided Safaris**  
[www.wildernessafrica.com](http://www.wildernessafrica.com)

**COSTS FOR THE ABOVE 9 NIGHT/10 DAY ITINERARY IN 2009 (including internal flights)**

**With your own Wilderness Africa professional guide** accompanying you throughout the safari. He is there to orchestrate your whole safari, to provide continuity from one camp to another, to see to any special requests and arrange for unusual touches to your safari. He ensures that it is varied and fun, by adding anecdotes as an African professional with years of experience, and adds to the trip by providing extra, often broader knowledge to the excellent resident guides in the various camps, who have their valued local knowledge to offer.

Number of clients in the group	4	6 or 8	10
Cost per person in US Dollars	12,200	10,550	10,220

**Without** a Wilderness Africa professional guide, but with your own private vehicle wherever possible.

Number of clients in the group	4	6 or 8	10
Cost per person in US Dollars	9,990	9,450	9,370

**WILDERNESS AFRICA TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**Included in the above safari prices:** Accommodation in best available twin-bedded tent/rooms on full board everywhere; the services of local resident guides; private safari vehicle at all camps/lodges; all game drives and other activities; all park entry and camping fees; airport transfers to the camps and to/from Maun airport; laundry services (reasonable amounts) at safari camps; soft and alcoholic drinks (except premium brands); air evacuation in case of a medical emergency (does not include any medical services once at the hospital).

**Not included in the above safari prices:** Items of a personal nature (e.g. visas, airport taxes, telephone or fax services, etc.); any kind of insurance; premium brands (eg champagne); gratuities; international flights to/from and within Africa. A *Wilderness Africa* professional guide is not included in the rates unless specifically stated.

**General:** We reserve the right to substitute campsites, hotels and/or lodges and to alter the itinerary should this be considered necessary or advisable. Should exceptional circumstances arise (eg. sudden unexpected increases in park fees or fuel), we reserve the right to alter the above prices.

**Deposits:**

To confirm a booking - 30% of full safari cost required (2/3 is non-refundable)  
60 days prior to safari - Full safari cost required

**Cancellations:****No of days prior to safari start date**

	<b>Terms</b>
> 120	20% of full safari cost is non-refundable
60-120	Initial deposit is forfeit
30-59	50% of full safari cost forfeit
< 30	Full safari cost forfeit

**Insurance:** While on safari with us you are not covered by any insurance (such as personal, travel, accident or baggage loss). We suggest that you make arrangements so that you and your property are fully insured for the duration of your safari and also for travel in light aircraft. Similarly, you are advised to arrange adequate insurance in the unforeseen event of postponement or cancellation of your safari.

**Liability:** Although every possible care is taken to safeguard you and your property, we accept no liability for any accidents, injuries, or illnesses arising during the safari, nor thereafter, nor the loss or damage to your property and persons. **By booking and paying a deposit for a safari, you are deemed to have accepted the liability and insurance clauses above.**